

THE COMET.

ROBT. L. TAYLOR,
ROBT. BURROW, Editors.

Johnson City, Tenn., July 5, 1884.

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We endorse the suggestion of the Bristol Courier that the two Democratic daily newspapers at Nashville quit shooting at each other and turn their guns toward the enemy.

THE COMET's attention has been directed to a communication from "D. S. H." the watery-eyed crank who gauges whiskey and writes letters to the Bristol News, but we can't reply; the game is too small.

It seems that our old sweet heart Pettibone has gotten his dear party in great trouble at Washington by absenting himself from his place on the Elections committee. Congressmen Wilson, (Rep) was voted out and a Democrat voted in. Pettibone's presence on the committee would have kept the Republican in Congress. So in leaving his post to manage himself in, the Major has managed a brother radical out. This is about the only thing in his brilliant record the Democracy approve of.

The day is near at hand when the editors of THE COMET must quit the editorial sanctum and take the stump for the glorious cause of truth and Democracy. But while we are out in the field battling with the foe we will not forget the happy band who are so fortunate as to be subscribers to THE COMET. Oh no, we will keep its mighty tail spread and its head blazing with the truth. We will send great lumps of Democracy shooting through the political heavens like millions of burning stars and each star shall have a tail and each tail shall shower millions of the meteors of truth down on the head of Radicalism. And there shall be a mash.

We publish this week's article of the Bristol News in full. We do so mainly because the News requests it, and for the further reason that we want THE COMET's readers to see and know the motives that the editor of that paper says caused him to change the convictions of a life time. And right here we beg to inquire whether the editor of the News has thrown off the "painted blanket" and revealed himself all his Republican hideousness and deformity, or whether he has donned the painted blanket to cover up his former ultra and rabid Democracy? We ask this question because we know the News is an expert on the painted blanket question.

But to the article of the News, which contains little else than bold assertions and misstatements of facts. We have not complained of lack of time. We have not argued that the News had no right to change its politics, provided he has a "good valid and subsisting reason" for so doing. We mean to say no one will stand justified in the eyes of men, or stand acquitted at the bar of his own conscience, who deserts his party and changes his principles without such a reason. That is all we have asked the News to give us. That is all we want. The tariff or other political questions have nothing to do with the discussion, except as they may throw light in that direction. We are not expecting any man to change and join the Democratic party without a reason. But myriads of the better element of the Republican party are deserting Blaine. The great dailies of New York and Boston have said they could not support him. Take their reasons for their nonsupport and compare them with those given by the News for joining the Republicans. They refuse to support Blaine on account of his personal corrupt record, questions of the day, while the editor of the News draws his "painted blanket" about him and tries to hide behind the worn-out, worm eaten tariff plank, that was an old question in politics long before the Republican party had an existence.

The News says that it has told us that "Democracy had no unity and therefore ought not to claim to be a party." We have told the News that that sounds like the cry of the deserter who leaves his own army routed, scattered and bleeding, and joins the well fed ranks and solid columns of the enemy in order to be on the winning side. We have again told the News that Geo. Wm. Curtis and Henry Ward Beecher and hundreds of other prominent Republicans, and the N. Y. Times, N. Y. Herald and scores of great newspapers have refused to help Blaine, and that the Republican party is, therefore, hopelessly divided, and according to the News' idea ought not to claim to be a party. The News says it has shown that "a tariff for revenue only" would ruin the country. It has done nothing of the kind. It

has simply said that such a tariff would ruin the country, without producing argument or proof. We still deny it. The News says it has proven that under Democratic low tariff, goods were high and labor low. It has merely asserted such to be the fact, and we again deny it and assert that the converse is true. The News says we decline to meet its proof, when it has offered no proof. Certainly we decline to take its bold, bald assertions, known to be in the face of historical facts. Besides the News is now contradicting what it said for fifteen years previous to 1884, and a little proof would save the News the humiliation and embarrassment of reconciling its contradictory statements.

The News further tells us it has asserted that the present currency is the child of the Republican party. Without taking space to discuss the currency question, it is sufficient to say that we have had the present currency since January 1, 1879, and the News ought to have painted its blanket about that time. Again: "We have asserted that under Republican tariff this country has been filled with manufactures." And we assert in reply that no manufactures South owe their existence to this protective tariff. For 20 years the high tariff built up the North and kept the South down, and not till hides were put on the free list and the duty on certain machinery reduced, did we have any manufactures in the South.

At last the News has "screwed its courage to the sticking point" and tells us why he "flopped." And here it is: "We are not for the Democracy because it has shown a sad incapacity to respond to the vital necessities of a dejected and impoverished Southern people." The News thinks this argumentative, and next week perhaps, will boastfully proclaim that we "have failed to meet these points." We assume that the News by "vital necessities" means "reforms"—offices. The conduct of the Mahone crew shows that they thought it would be vital to them if they did not get the "necessities." But the News ought not to kick so hard against the Democracy for failing to "respond" when he knows we have not had control of the "vital necessities" for a long time. The News ought to have waited awhile. It has generally shown a weakness for flopping at the wrong time, and it may turn out that it was a little previous this time. The News has not told us what reforms the "brilliant" Mahone and his band of progressives were kicked out of the Democratic party for trying to accomplish inside that party. We were under the impression he was kicked out for trying to get the Democratic party inside the Republican party.

Nor has the News told us how he wanted to meet the generous, and liberal Northerners, that caused such a shower of dirt to fall on his chivalrous head. Did the News want us to have a "national reconciliation" by all joining the Republican party? If he did then we say, more dirt. We want to give the News a little lesson in Republicanism just here. It ought to tossel National with a big N. That is orthodox. But the News is learning fast. Already it has got to the point where it can smite the wrinkled cheek of that grand old patriot, Samuel J. Tilden; and when it can do that it has about got to the bottom. If the News has succeeded in keeping down the ghost of its own conscience, this controversy has been a godsend.

The Comet has lost a fortnight in coming to the scratch. In complaints of lack of time. It shall have all summer if it wishes. But mean time it should be careful not to let the iron of its argument cool by keeping it out of the fire two weeks at a time. While the Comet is running to Nashville, Blaine is running away from the Presidency, and Kelley is running away with Cleveland. We have argued as to the better route for these Southern States to take. The Comet argues merely that we have no right to choose. We submit that to concede its demands would be to concede its ruin. It denies our right to change party alignment. That cuts the Comet's political throat, and we contend the Comet has no right to change no one has that right, and this sees up the Democracy. It is only by change of front with the voters of the union that Democracy and the Comet have any hope. Both are "dead to skin" if people cannot change. The country is Republican. Farewell! Brother Crawford. Hoist on thine own petard! We have reasoned with the Comet, by showing the deterioration in Democracy in Virginia, but it declares it has no time for the defence of Va. Democracy. Prudent people! Va. Democracy is indefensible. We have told it and shown it that Democracy has no unity and therefore ought not to claim to be a party. We have shown it that it has divided as a party on all great questions and is not divided on the great question of this American age. The Comet answers not. We have shown that the "Tariff for revenue only" which it advocates, would ruin this country. It simply impugns our motive in saying so, we have proven that under the Democratic tariff of 14 per cent, goods were high and labor low. We have proven the inverse proposition that under the Republican tariff of 42 per cent, goods are low and labor high. It declines to meet this proof. Wise Comet! It cannot be met. We have asserted that the present currency is surpassingly better than any the Democracy ever gave this country, and that this currency is the child of the Republican party. We have asserted that, under Republican rule and Republican Tariff this country has been filled with manufactures as it never dreamed of, that under it people are happier, more prosperous, educated than ever before. It has failed to meet these points,

but simply asks that all this career of splendor and success shall be jeopardized by reversing the machine and switching the train on to the old broken jointed, splintered rail side track of Democracy. The unreasoning demand that we shall do now and close now and endorse now and suffer by now, all that we may once have favored, under changed circumstances, or unchanged circumstances may be met by the inverted method of repeating the adage that "wise men change sometimes but fools never." But we prefer language more courtly and argumentative, and we now tell the Comet that we are not for Democracy because it has shown a sad incapacity to respond to the vital necessities of a dejected and impoverished Southern people. We are opposed to it because it has simply become the instrument of a "horizontal" reduction of Republican principles. It camps each year on camping ground from which the Republican party has advanced. It has no policy of its own except the policy of resistance and side switching to let the Republican train pass it. We are opposed to Democracy because from a band of brave and progressive, liberal Virginia Democrats, under the brilliant Mahone, asserted the right to advocate and introduce reforms inside Democracy, they were formally tried, convicted of high treason, kicked out of the party, and told that such conduct was inadmissible inside the party. We are opposed to it because our willingness to meet generous and liberal Northern people half way in the work of national reconciliation has brought down on us a shower of dirt which no independent and chivalrous people can submit to with self respect.

But in order that our readers may see for themselves that we do not misrepresent the Comet in saying that its treatment of this discussion is not an argument of the great question at issue, we here unto append the Comet's entire article this week—verbatim in literature. Will the Comet exchange?

Some Political Figures.

Some States are habitually set down as sure to be Democratic, and the number of their Presidential electors is as follows:

Alabama	10	Missouri	16
Arkansas	7	North Carolina	11
Delaware	3	South Carolina	9
Florida	4	Tennessee	12
Georgia	12	Texas	13
Kentucky	13	Virginia	12
Louisiana	8	West Virginia	6
Maryland	8		
Mississippi	9	Total	153

On the other hand, certain States are set down as surely Republican:

Colorado	3	New Hampshire	4
Illinois	22	Ohio	23
Iowa	13	Oregon	3
Kansas	9	Pennsylvania	30
Maine	6	Rhode Island	4
Massachusetts	4	Vermont	4
Michigan	13	Wisconsin	11
Minnesota	7		
Nebraska	5	Total	174
Nevada	3		

There is a third category of States that are believed to be doubtful, and the electoral votes of these States are what the parties most strenuously contend for:

California	8	New Jersey	9
Connecticut	9	New York	36
Indiana	15		
Total			74

Thus we see that there are 153 electoral votes which are ordinarily regarded as sure to be Democratic, 174 electoral votes which are set down as surely Republican, and 74 electoral votes that are doubtful. There are in all 401 electors, and the votes of 201 of them are necessary to choose a President. Now, the Democrats having 153, need 48 more to give them the majority; and the Republicans having 174, need 27 to give them a majority.

Thus if the Republicans hold all the States which are set down as theirs, and get New York in addition, they will elect Mr. Blaine, even though California, Connecticut, Indiana, and New Jersey should go to the Democrats. On the other hand, if the Democrats hold all the States that are conceded to them, and in addition carry California, Connecticut, Indiana, and New Jersey, but not New York, they will still come ten short of a majority; while if they carry New York and Indiana or New York and any two of the other doubtful States, they will have votes enough and their candidate will be elected.

Thus it appears that, while New York is not indispensable to the Republicans, it is indispensable to the Democrats. They cannot get along without it, and the great question for them to consider is how to carry New York. In saying this we only say what has already been said a thousand times by other judicious political arithmeticians.—N. Y. Sun.

BLAINE AT HOME.

How He Received News of His Nomination. His Daughter's Enthusiasm.

I was with Blaine while the news from the balloting came, and for some two hours before. He related incidents of his life, many of them suggested by the situation at that time. He seemed to be entirely free from any care, trouble or anxiety. He said to me one day: "I am in a state of mind where, whatever happens, I am content. If the nomination comes to me it will come unsought. I determined from the first that I would take no part whatever in the matter, and have steadily refused my strongest and best friends any co-operation or advice in regard to the candidacy for the Presidency." I was alone with him until about fifteen minutes before the dispatches came. During that time he was perfectly calm and free from anxiety or concern. As the vote of each State would come in he would make some comment on it, saying

that such a vote was larger or smaller than he supposed it would have been. I took the figures down as they came in. I kept tally of them and when the entire vote was received, before I had added the votes, he said: "I think, Mr. Homan, that you will find that Arthur will lead on this ballot." I said: "No, you are mistaken." He said: "I have been watching the figures and I think Arthur will lead slightly." Just at that moment I finished tabulating the returns and found that he had 334 votes to Arthur's 274. When I told him the result he said: "That is just about what some of my friends told me it would be. But I thought it would fall off a little." While the second ballot was coming in he said to me: "You take down the figures. I am going into the garden." He went out with the children and sat down in the hammock. I kept at work on the figures in the house, a little while, but finally they began to come in so slow that I gave it up and went out, too. Then Margaret Blaine went to the telephone and kept tally.

After the third ballot the question of adjournment came up which was to decide whether Mr. Blaine would get the nomination or not, for those who were in his favor would vote against the adjournment. When they voted down the motion to adjourn we knew what the result would be. Mrs. Blaine and the children, Miss Dodge, Miss Stanwood, Mrs. and Miss Manley, General Beal, of Norway; Mr. Alden Sprague, of the Kennebec Journal; Mrs. Homan and I were with him when the announcement was made. We heard a shout from the house where Margaret was at the telephone, and instantly she rushed out of the house and over the bank to the hammock where her father was sitting and threw her arms around him. As soon as she recovered breath she made the announcement that her father was nominated, and though we did not get the figures until late in the evening that was sufficient. Mr. Blaine disengaged himself from Margaret, arose from the hammock, went over to his wife and kissed her. People from all over the town were there in a few minutes.—Augusta Letter to New York Tribune.

Advice From John Kelley.

The Tammany Democrats completed last night their arrangements for the Chicago Convention. Six hundred warriors will start from the Grand Central Depot in the special train on Saturday, July 5th at 9 o'clock A. M.

The Hon. John Kelley urged every Tammany man to attend the Convention. He said that the Democracy throughout the country were looking to New York State for advice, knowing that its electoral vote was necessary to elect a Democratic President. The delegates from this State could name the candidate. The Republicans had nominated a vulnerable man, and it behooves the Democrats to name a candidate whose personal and public record was without a stain. If such a man was nominated, he would receive the support of the independent voter, who had hitherto acted with the Republican party, but were now dissatisfied with its nominees. The New York State delegation had an important duty to discharge. They should see that a man was nominated for President who would stand for the best interests of the people and especially for that important element of the people, the workman. If a candidate should be nominated who could not carry this State, it would be the fault of the delegates from this State.

Ex-Senator Kernan on Cleveland.

"Until I read Mr. Tilden's letter I regarded him as pre-eminently the choice of the party and that he would be nominated. After him I think no man in this State so well meets the demand of the party of the country as Mr. Cleveland. While he has never been anything but a reliable and consistent supporter of Democratic principles, he has, in his administration of our State affairs as Governor, fulfilled by universal concession, the pledges of the reform platform upon which he was elected by such an enormous majority. I can conceive of nothing in his record which would lose him the votes given to him in 1882. That the Republican press regards him as the most dangerous opponent whom the Democratic party can present is of itself a strong reason why New York should present him at Chicago."

Ex-Gov. Joel Parker Would Accept.

It has been understood in New Jersey that ex-Gov. Parker is willing to receive the Democratic nomination for President. He was called on in Newark yesterday and interviewed on the subject.

"I am not a candidate," he said, "inasmuch as I cannot accept anything which has not been tendered me. Of course it is a worthy ambition to be nominated for the highest gift of the people, and I would accept it if it were offered to me. I have been earnestly solicited by many people to enter the field, but my position on the bench deters me from making a personal canvass."

If Blaine should be elected, Steve Elkins will be in a position to receive a complimentary dinner, as Dorsey did four years ago. President Arthur will not be there to make a speech about the value of soap.

Final Adjournment.

Both houses of Congress seem to be working with an object in view—the adjournment of Congress on Saturday next. Whether that can be done depends upon the dispatch of business. The only obstacle in the way of adjournment is the disagreement between the two houses on four appropriation bills. These are the naval, post-office, legislative and deficiency bills. The conference committee on these bills seem in a fair way to adjust the differences and it is expected they will all be out of the way in a day or two. Members of both houses are very anxious about adjournment and are even clamorous for the appropriation committees to hurry up matters. Some of them charge that there is a conspiracy between the two committees to prolong the session. It is asserted that if the Congress does not adjourn on the 5th it will not adjourn before the 1st of August and that the time intervening will be occupied in political discussion and that no legislation will be accomplished. Mr. Randall says that Congress can adjourn on the 15th if proper attention is given. Mr. Carlisle says it is not probable that adjournment will be reached this week.

The Tariff as an Issue.

B. F. Jones, chairman of the national Republican committee has returned home and talks freely about the campaign. He says that no definite plan of operations have been agreed upon as yet, and cannot be until after the meeting of the Democratic National Convention. The paramount issue, however, will be the tariff. As a national question it will enter largely into discussion upon the stump and in the press in all doubtful States, and will receive special attention at the hands of the committee. The States he names as doubtful and expects to carry are: New York, New Jersey, Indiana and possibly West Virginia. The latter he counts sure unless Bayard is nominated, as he would be very strong there.

In speaking of the Democratic candidates he said that Cleveland has no certainty of nomination, but is in the lead. Bayard or Butler would be harder to defeat. Thurman is the best man mentioned for the place, but would not make as popular a campaign as Cleveland. Tilden might except yet if he were tendered a unanimous nomination. Butler, he thought, might carry Massachusetts, even if he did not get Democratic endorsement. With the Massachusetts electoral votes in his pocket Butler could put other candidates in a peculiar position.

Butler's Chances.

CHICAGO, June 30.—Benj. F. Butler, as a Presidential candidate, is gradually growing in importance. The General will be here in person, with two nominations already to support his claim. B. F. Shively, Secretary of the recent Anti-Monopoly Convention says that the Anti-Monopolists will have no other candidate, and Butler, without the Democratic nomination, will poll one and one-half million votes. On the seventh of July, one hundred representative men of the Democracy will make the Briggs House their headquarters, and will take off their coats and go to work for Butler. Shively thinks if Butler is nominated by the Democrats he can carry New York, Indiana and New Jersey beyond a doubt, and place Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Massachusetts and Nebraska among the very doubtful States. Under no circumstances would the Anti-Monopolists vote for Cleveland.

A dispatch was received from Gen. Butler this evening accepting the invitation of the Labor party of this city to be present in person at the great demonstration to be given in his honor on Saturday night. As it has been found impossible to obtain a hall large enough to accommodate the immense audience which it assured, the formal proceedings will take place on the lake front.

500 County Democrats Going.

The County Democracy completed, last night, their arrangements for the journey to Chicago. Four hundred and fifteen tickets for the trip have been sold, and it is expected that 500 men will start for the Convention on the special train which leaves the West Shore Railroad depot at 9:15 A. M. on the 4th of July. The members of the First Assembly districts organization will start to-morrow evening on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. Congressman Nicholas Muller pays their expenses.—N. Y. Sun.

"Whatever other result attends it the coming convention cannot fail to have a great moral effect upon the young men of the country," said Chairman Hensel, of the Democratic State committee, yesterday. "The contrast between it and the Republican Convention will be very great. Not only will some of the great leaders and statesmen of the party be seen in the front in this critical council in the party's history, but all through the average of delegates will be very high, higher than in many years, and the spectacle cannot but make an impression." A new generation of voters has sprung up since the war and to these it will be a surprise to find the vilified party that has been so long in the minority able to make such a respectable showing.—Philadelphia Times.

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